BRITAIN'S SUPER-HERO ACTION COMIC

FANTASTIC

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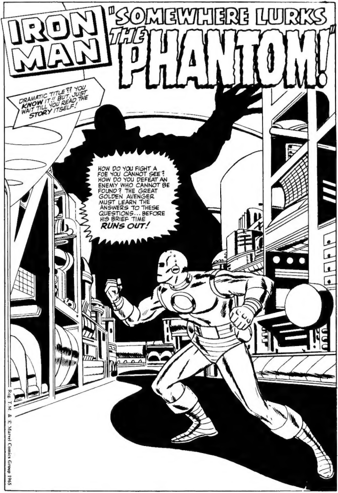
A POWER COMIC
No. 39 EVERY MONDAY 9d.
AUSTRALIA 10c. SOUTH AFRICA 10c. EAST AFRICA 1.25 NEW ZEALAND 1/- (10c.) RHODESIA 1/3 WEST AFRICA 1/-

THE MIGHTY THOR


IRON MAN
"SOMEWHERE LURKS THE PHANTOM!"
DRAMATIC TITLE?? YOU KNOW IT!! BUT, JUST WAIT TILL YOU READ THE STORY ITSELF!
HOW DO YOU FIGHT A FOE YOU CANNOT SEE? HOW DO YOU DEFEAT AN ENEMY WHO CANNOT BE FOUND? THE GREAT GOLDEN AVENGER MUST LEARN THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS... BEFORE HIS BRIEF TIME RUNS OUT!
Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group 1965

THE MANDARIN HAS BEEN DEFEATED...FOR THE TIME BEING!* AND NOW, WEARY, BUT VICTORIOUS, THE MIGHTY IRON MAN RETURNS TO HIS ARMAMENTS FACTORY...
JUST A SECOND, SIR! IRON MAN JUST CAME IN!
I JUST CAME FROM HALF-WAY AROUND THE WORLD, AFTER FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE... AND YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE I WAS AT THE CORNER SHOP!
WHO'S ON THE PHONE FOR ME?
IT'S DR. BIRCH!
*AS SEEN IN OUR LAST ISH. — BART.
DR. BIRCH IS HEAD OF OUR NEW PRODUCTS DIVISION! HE'S BEEN WANTING TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT GETTING MORE EQUIPMENT FOR HIS LAB!
IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT! I'VE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO ATTEND TO NOW! TELL BIRCH I'LL CALL HIM WHEN I GET A CHANCE!
SORRY, MR. BIRCH! IRON MAN WILL GET BACK TO YOU LATER! HE'S TOO BUSY NOW! NO, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT!
I'VE GOT SOME REPORTS TO GO OVER WITH YOU!
LATER, HAPPY! RIGHT NOW I WANT TO GO INTO MY OFFICE AND RECOVER FROM THE WARMTH OF THE CHEERFUL WELCOME I GOT FROM YOU BOTH!
WHAT DID HE EXPECT... A BRASS BAND? AFTER THE WAY HE LET MR. STARK GET KILLED,* HE'S LUCKY WE DON'T SHORT HIS LOUSY TRANSISTORS FOR HIM!
I..I WISH YOU WOULDN'T MENTION ANTHONY STARK, HAPPY! I GET ALL CHOKED UP WHEN I EVEN THINK OF HIM!
* AS DESCRIBED IN ISSUE 37.
EVEN THOUGH HE'S DEAD, STARK STILL COMES BETWEEN PEPPER AND ME! WILL SHE EVER FORGET HIM ENOUGH TO HAVE EYES FOR HAPPY HOGAN?
BUT, HOW STARTLED HAPPY AND PEPPER WOULD BE IF THEY COULD PEER BEHIND THE LOCKED DOOR OF IRON MAN'S LAB, AND SEE THE FACE WHICH IS REVEALED WHEN HE REMOVES HIS PROTECTIVE MASK...THE FACE OF ANTHONY STARK!
I HAD TO LET THE WORLD THINK TONY STARK IS DEAD, BECAUSE I COULDN'T REMOVE MY ARMOUR WITHOUT CAUSING MY INJURED HEART TO STOP BEATING! BUT NOW, THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT!
ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE ORIENT, AN IDEA HIT ME! AT LAST I HAVE MY ANSWER!

THE ENTIRE THING HINGES UPON MY MODIFYING A MASTER TRANSISTOR, AND TRIPLING ITS POWER OUTPUT!
IF IT WORKS... AS I EXPECT IT TO... IT SHOULD ALLOW ME TO BREATHE FREELY EVEN WITHOUT THE AID OF MY IRON ARMOUR!
ALL I'LL NEED TO WEAR IS MY TRANSISTORIZED CHEST DEVICE... WHICH CAN BE EASILY CONCEALED UNDER ORDINARY STREET CLOTHES!
THERE! IT'S FINISHED!
AND NOW FOR THE TEST! IF IT WORKS, ANTHONY STARK WILL LIVE AGAIN!
AND, IF IT FAILS... BOTH STARK AND IRON MAN WILL HAVE BREATHED THEIR LAST!
ALL THAT REMAINS TO BE DONE IS TO REMOVE MY ARMOUR!
IF.. IF I FAIL... LET ME DIE WITH VALOUR!
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW! EVERYTHING DEPENDS UPON THE MASTER TRANSISTOR!
IT'S WORKING SO FAR! BUT... WILL IT CONTINUE TO KEEP MY HEART BEATING ??
THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES ARE CRUCIAL! IF I SURVIVE THAT LONG... I'LL HAVE SUCCEEDED!
I DID IT! I PASSED THE TIME LIMIT!
TONY STARK CAN LIVE AGAIN!

AND SO, A SCANT FEW MINUTES LATER...
WELL, THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT...!
SO! WHILE THE BOSS IS AWAY, YOU TWO JUST SIT AROUND LOAF-ING, EH? TSK, TSK!
MR. STARK! B-BUT YOU'RE DEAD!
IT'S HIM! BUT...IT CAN'T BE! I...I MUST BE GOING MAD! OHHH!
I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WOULD BE SUCH A SHOCK TO HER! QUICK, HAPPY... GET THE SMELLING SALTS!
YEAH, BOSS. SURE!
THE WAY HE'S LOOKING AT HER! HE LOVES HER, TOO! I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED!
SECONDS LATER...
I'VE NO RIGHT TO STAND IN THEIR WAY! IF NOT FOR ME, PEPPER MIGHT MARRY HAPPY! I DON'T DARE MARRY... BECAUSE OF MY INJURED HEART!
PEPPER MUST NEVER KNOW THAT I LOVE HER, TOO! THE ONLY WAY I CAN PROVE MY LOVE, IS TO GIVE HER UP! TO LET HER FIND A NEW LIFE WITH HAPPY!
BOSS.. WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
THAT CAN WAIT! FIRST, I WANT TO TELL YOU...
I'M ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED!
WHAT?!!
GREAT! NOW PEP WILL HAVE TO FORGET HIM!
I WANTED TO KEEP IT SECRET! SHE'S A DEBUTANTE — LIVES OUT OF TOWN! THAT'S WHERE I'VE BEEN THESE WEEKS!
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS RE-PORTED DEAD! WE WERE ON HER FAMILY'S YACHT... WITHOUT ANY NEWS-PAPERS!
WITHIN SECONDS, THE UNEXPECTED NEWS SPREADS LIKE WILDFIRE...
ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ALL PERSONNEL! MR. STARK HAS RE-TURNED! HE'S ALIVE! WE REPEAT... ANTHONY STARK IS ALIVE!
HEY! DID YOU HEAR THAT? THE BOSS IS ALIVE!
IT FIGURES! HE WAS JUST TOO RICH TO DIE!
THAT'S GREAT NEWS ABOUT THE BOSS, SAM! NOW, IRON MAN WON'T BE ABLE TO ACT LIKE HE OWNS THE PLACE!
I DON'T KNOW! STARK HIMSELF ALWAYS ACTS AS IF HE CAN'T GET ALONG WITHOUT THAT SHELL-HEADED CREEP!

AND THEN...
FINE, THANKS, MR. STARK! I'VE BEEN TRYING TO DISCUSS SOME NEW EQUIPMENT WITH IRON MAN, BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE...
HELLO, BIRCH! HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
SORRY, BIRCH! I'VE MORE URGENT THINGS TO DEAL WITH NOW! CHECK WITH ME NEXT WEEK!
AND SO, THE GREATEST PRODUCTION GENIUS OF HIS TIME CONDUCTS A THOROUGH TOUR OF HIS SPRAWLING MUNITIONS FACTORY, WHILE A PART OF HIS BRAIN CONCENTRATES ON STILL ANOTHER SUBJECT...
ALL OUR OPERATIONS ARE ON SCHEDULE, SIR! OUR QUOTA HAS BEEN MET PERFECTLY!
GOOD! GOOD!
I WONDER IF I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING? WHAT IF PEPPER DOESN'T REALLY LOVE HAPPY? WHO AM I TO DECIDE THEY SHOULD MARRY??
AND YET, NOW THAT SHE BELIEVES I'M ENGAGED, SHE'S BEHAVING DIFFERENTLY TOWARDS HAPPY! THEY DO SEEM IN LOVE!
OH, PEPPER... MY DARLING! IF ONLY THAT COULD BE MY ARM YOU'RE HOLDING!
BUT, YOU MUST NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH I TRULY LOVE YOU!
BUT NOW, BEFORE YOU START THINKING YOU BOUGHT A LOVE MAGAZINE BY MISTAKE, WE CHANGE OUR SCENE TO ANOTHER PART OF THE HUGE FACTORY...
HOW QUIET EVERYTHING IS! NO ONE SUSPECTS THAT WITHIN MINUTES, THE PHANTOM WILL STRIKE!
ALL I NEED DO IS PLANT THIS CAMOUFLAGED TIME BOMB IN THE RIGHT PLACE, AND THEN FADE BACK INTO THE SHADOWS!
THUS, LESS THAN TEN MINUTES LATER...
A FLASH FIRE... AT THE MISSILES TESTING SECTION! I'D BETTER GET OVER THERE... AS IRON MAN!
IT'S A CLEAR CASE OF SABOTAGE! EVERYTHING IN THIS SECTOR IS COMPLETELY FIREPROOFED! ONLY A HIGH-INTENSITY EXPLOSIVE COULD HAVE DONE THIS!
LOOKS LIKE A JOB CUT OUT FOR YOU, IRON MAN! A PHANTOM SABOTEUR!

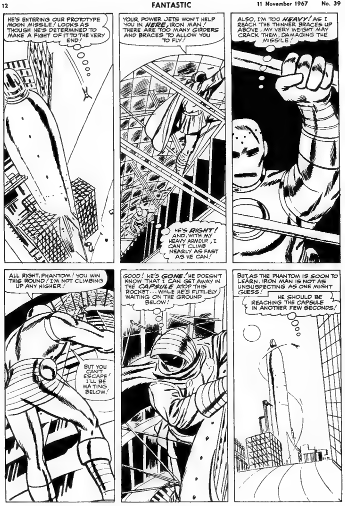
WHERE'S IRON MAN GOING? HE'LL BE ROASTED ALIVE!
YOU KIDDING? THAT ARMOUR OF HIS COULD PROTECT HIM AGAINST ANYTHING SHORT OF AN ATOM BOMB!
THIS IS WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR! A STILL INTACT REMNANT OF THE ORIGINAL SABOTAGE DEVICE!
IT'S ONE OF MY OWN COMPONENT PARTS! BUT, HOW COULD THE SABOTEUR HAVE GOT HOLD OF IT, UNLESS... ??
IF MY SUSPICIONS ARE CORRECT, THE PHANTOM SABOTEUR IS CERTAIN TO STRIKE AGAIN!.. AND HE'LL USE EVERY RUSE TO PREVENT ME FROM STOPPING HIM!
AND, IT SEEMS THAT IRON MAN'S WORST SUSPICIONS ARE CORRECT, FOR... IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW...
THE FOURTH SERIOUS MISHAP IN FOUR DAYS!
I THREW THE SWITCH... AND THE CABLES BLEW! THE CIRCUIT'S BEEN TAMPERED WITH!
BUT, RUNNING A MUNITIONS FACTORY IS NOT A SIMPLE JOB! MANY PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED WITH WHAT GOES ON THERE!.. PEOPLE SUCH AS THESE...
AS COMMANDING GENERAL OF THIS SECTOR, I'LL SEND MY TROOPS IN IF THE ACCIDENTS DON'T STOP!
I WON'T PERMIT MEMBERS OF MY UNION TO WORK IN A PLANT WHICH IS SO UNSAFE!
IF STARK CAN'T STOP THOSE OUTRAGES, THE GOVERNMENT DEFENCE CONTRACTS WILL GO TO ANOTHER COMPANY!
AND, FULLY AWARE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION, ONE MAN WORKS AROUND THE CLOCK TO CATCH THE PHANTOM...
I DARE NOT REST FOR A MINUTE!
THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE OR WHEN THE PHANTOM WILL STRIKE NEXT! BUT, WHENEVER IT IS, IRON MAN MUST BE READY! WE CAN'T TAKE MANY MORE "ACCIDENTS"!
WAIT! WHAT'S THAT MOVING ALONG THE RAMP AHEAD? IT'S A HUMAN FORM!
AN INTRUDER! IN A COSTUME AND CAPE! IT MUST BE THE PHANTOM! BUT, WHY THE CORNY GET-UP?
BLAST THESE HEAVY CLANKING BOOTS OF MINE! HE HEARD ME! HE'S TURNING TAIL!

BUT, IN HIS EAGERNESS, IRON MAN HAS THROWN CAUTION TO THE WINDS, AND SO...
HE RIGGED UP A BOOBY TRAP FOR ME
...AND I BLUNDERED RIGHT INTO IT!
LUCKILY, NO SIMPLE EXPLOSIVE DEVICE CAN SERIOUSLY AFFECT MY TRANSISTOR-POWERED ARMOUR...
...BUT, IN THE TIME IT TOOK ME TO REGAIN MY BALANCE AND MAKE MY WAY THROUGH THE SMOKE, THE PHANTOM HAS VANISHED!
IRON MAN! HAVE YOU SEEN MR. STARK? THERE'S A UNION DELEGATION WAITING FOR HIM!
THANKS, BILL! I'LL FIND THE BOSS AND TELL HIM!
SO... MINUTES LATER...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE ME ABOUT, ADAMS?
THESE ACCIDENTS AT YOUR FACTORY! YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CATCH THE PHANTOM YET!
I CAN'T ALLOW THE LIVES OF OUR UNION WORKERS TO BE ENDANGERED! EITHER YOU FIND A WAY TO CATCH THE PHANTOM AND END THESE ACCIDENTS, OR WE'LL CALL A STRIKE!
WE'LL GIVE YOU 24 HOURS... AND THAT'S ALL!
THEN, AFTER THE UNION DELEGATION HAS LEFT...
I DON'T BLAME THEM FOR THEIR CONCERN, BUT A STRIKE WOULD RUIN ME!
IT WOULD HALT MY MISSILE CONSTRUCTION, CAUSING ME TO LOSE MY DEFENCE DEPARTMENT CONTRACTS! I MUST STOP THE PHANTOM... SOMEHOW!!

ONCE AGAIN, THE MIGHTY ARMOURED HERO PATROLS EVERY INCH OF HIS VAST, COMPLEX MUNITIONS FACTORY... THOUGH HIS LIMBS ARE ACHING FROM LACK OF REST, AND HIS HEAD IS THROBBING FROM THE OVERLONG WEARING OF HIS IRON MASK...!
IF ONLY I HAD SOME CLUE TO HIS IDENTITY! BUT, THE PHANTOM COULD BE ALMOST ANYBODY!
HAH! ANOTHER 24 HOURS AND THE STRIKE WILL BE CALLED! THEN, THIS WHOLE INDUSTRIAL EMPIRE WILL COLLAPSE AROUND THE EARS OF STARK AND IRON MAN, AND THE PHANTOM WILL HAVE WON!
MY BUILT-IN RADAR-TYPE DETECTOR IS BEGINNING TO TINGLE! THAT MEANS THERE IS SOMEONE NEAR ME... SOMEONE WHO MUST BE LURKING IN THE SHADOWS!!
THAT CAN ONLY BE... THE ONE I SEEK... THE PHANTOM!
UP AHEAD! I HEARD SOMETHING!
GOT YOU!!
UHHH!
YOU'RE A PRETTY BIG MAN WHEN YOU'RE TACKLING AN ORDINARY JOE LIKE ME! TOO BAD YOU CAN'T DO AS GOOD AGAINST THE PHANTOM!
HAPPY! BUT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SKULKING AROUND HERE IN THE DARK? HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT THE SABOTEUR?

COOL IT, YOU WALKING JUNK PILE! I WAS LOOKING FOR THE PHANTOM ... TO HELP MR. STARK ... LIKE YOU SHOULD BE DOING ... AND THEN ... HEY!! UP THERE!!
SOMEONE RUNNING ALONG THE CATWALK! IT'S HIM!
SO, YOU FOUND ME! WELL, LOOK AT ME, YOU FOOLS! THIS IS THE LAST CHANCE YOU'LL GET!!
HE'S THROWING SOMETHING!
TAKE COVER!! IF IT'S A BOMB, WE'RE COOKED!!
HOLD IT!! IT'S TOO LATE TO RUN! IF I CAN CATCH IT, I'LL SMOTHER IT WITH MY IRON GLOVE!
ALL RIGHT, HAPPY! NOW YOU CAN TAKE OFF! THIS IS JUST BETWEEN THE PHANTOM AND ME FROM HERE ON IN!
HE RACED THROUGH HERE! OUR ELECTRONIC NERVE CENTRE IS BEHIND THIS DOOR! I CAN'T GIVE HIM TIME TO DAMAGE IT!
RIP!
DON'T..SQUEEZE..THAT... TRIGGER!
YOU!!
YOU'RE TOO LATE, IRON MAN! THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN STOP ME FROM COMPLETELY DESTROYING THIS ENTIRE CONTROL CENTRE!!

I'M NOT TRYING TO STOP YOU! LOOK... MY ARMS ARE OUT-STRETCHED IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS!
GOOD! JUST STAY THAT WAY! AFTER I'VE SHATTERED THIS MAIN PANEL, MY NEXT BURST WILL PUT YOU OUT OF ACTION ...FOREVER!
BUT, BEFORE THE PHANTOM CAN MAKE A MOVE, A REPULSER BEAM SHOOTS OUT FROM IRON MAN'S HAND, RICOCHETTING AGAINST THE WALL, AND STRIKING OUT WITH PERFECT PRECISION ...
ANY MORE SPEECHES YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE, PHANTOM?
ZAP!
MY BLAST GUN FAILED ME!... BUT, IF I MOVE FAST ENOUGH, THIS SUCTION BOMB CAN STILL DO THE TRICK!
IF YOU WANT ME, IRON MAN... COME AND GET ME!
DON'T WORRY, MASKED MAN... I WILL! BUT NOT BEFORE I GET RID OF THAT LITTLE GIZMO I SAW YOU FASTEN ONTO THE SIDE OF THE PANEL!
IT MIGHT GO OFF AT ANY SECOND... ONLY ONE THING TO DO...!
SEIZING THE SUCTION BOMB BETWEEN HIS IRON FINGERS, THE ARMOURED HERO APPLIES TRANSISTOR-POWERED CONCENTRATED PRESSURE, THE FORCE OF WHICH ALMOST DEFIES DESCRIPTION!!
SCRUNCH!
AND NOW, PHANTOM, I'LL JUST TAKE YOU UP ON THAT LITTLE OFFER TO COME AND GET YOU!!
USING MY TRANSISTOR-POWERED FLYING JETS, I'LL FOLLOW HIM TO THE EDGE OF INFINITY, IF NEED BE! THIS TIME HE WON'T ESCAPE ME!


HE'S ENTERING OUR PROTOTYPE MOON MISSILE! LOOKS AS THOUGH HE'S DETERMINED TO MAKE A FIGHT OF IT TO THE VERY END!
YOUR POWER JETS WON'T HELP YOU IN HERE, IRON MAN! THERE ARE TOO MANY GIRDERS AND BRACES TO ALLOW YOU TO FLY!
HE'S RIGHT! AND, WITH MY HEAVY ARMOUR, I CAN'T CLIMB NEARLY AS FAST AS HE CAN!
ALSO, I'M TOO HEAVY! AS I REACH THE THINNER BRACES UP ABOVE, MY VERY WEIGHT MAY CRACK THEM, DAMAGING THE MISSILE!
ALL RIGHT, PHANTOM! YOU WIN THIS ROUND! I'M NOT CLIMBING UP ANY HIGHER!
BUT YOU CAN'T ESCAPE! I'LL BE WAITING BELOW!
GOOD! HE'S GONE! HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT I CAN GET AWAY IN THE CAPSULE ATOP THIS ROCKET... WHILE HE'S FUTILELY WAITING ON THE GROUND BELOW!
BUT, AS THE PHANTOM IS SOON TO LEARN, IRON MAN IS NOT AS UNSUSPECTING AS ONE MIGHT GUESS!
HE SHOULD BE REACHING THE CAPSULE IN ANOTHER FEW SECONDS!

IT'S NOT A TRICK! HE ISN'T FOLLOWING! THAT MEANS I CAN ESCAPE EASILY!
THIS IS THE FIRST MISSILE IN WHICH THE CAPSULE IS ABLE TO FLY INDEPENDENTLY OF THE MAIN ROCKET...AS AN ADDED SAFETY FACTOR FOR THE PILOT!
BUT...WHAT'S WRONG?! THE CONTROLS AREN'T RESPONDING!! THE CAPSULE IS SHAKING LOOSE! NO! NO!
IT'S IRON MAN! HE DID TRICK ME! HE FLEW UP HERE FROM THE OUTSIDE!
HE FREED THE CAPSULE! HE'S BROKEN THE CONTROL WIRES! I'M HELPLESS!
DON'T BE IMPATIENT, PHANTOM! YOU WANTED A RIDE, SO YOU'RE GETTING ONE!
I BELIEVE YOU BOYS HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR THIS GUY! WELL, HERE HE IS!
THE PHANTOM!
GRAB HIM!
NOW I'D BETTER GET THIS CAPSULE BACK AND BECOME TONY STARK AGAIN ON THE DOUBLE!
MINUTES LATER, A SUAVE, RELAXED ANTHONY STARK FACES THE NOW-DEFEATED PHANTOM ..
BIRCH?! WHY, MAN?? WHY YOU??
I HATED YOU, STARK! YOU, AND IRON MAN! YOU TWO ARE THE GLAMOUR BOYS HERE...NO ONE PAYS ANY ATTENTION TO ME!
I COULDN'T EVEN GET TO SPEAK TO YOU WHEN I WANTED TO! IT WAS ALWAYS "LATER, BIRCH!" OR "WHEN I GET THE TIME, BIRCH!" I WANTED TO BE NOTICED!
BIRCH, YOU'RE A FOOL! I TRUSTED YOU...GAVE YOU FREE REIN! BUT YOU WANTED MORE! YOU WERE FILLED WITH ENVY...AND YOUR TYPE WOULD NEVER BE SATISFIED, NO MATTER HOW MUCH ATTENTION YOU RECEIVED!
TAKE HIM AWAY, BOYS!
BOSS, IS IT OKAY IF I USE ONE OF YOUR CARS? PEPPER AND I ARE GOING TO THE TOWN!
SURE, KIDS...HAVE A BALL! YOU DESERVE IT FOR THE WAY YOU PITCHED IN DURING MY ABSENCE!
THANK YOU, MR. STARK!
WELL, I ACCOMPLISHED WHAT I WANTED! PEPPER HAS GIVEN ME UP BECAUSE OF MY "ENGAGEMENT"! NOW, HAPPY IS FREE TO TRY TO WIN HER FOR HIMSELF! THE PHANTOM IS CAPTURED...AND EVERYTHING'S FINE!
SO, WHY IS MY HEART SO HEAVY? WHY DOES THE NIGHT SEEM SO BLEAK... AND ENDLESS..??
THUS, WE LEAVE ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST MEN IN THE WORLD...ONE OF THE MOST GLAMOROUS BACHELORS OF ALL TIME! A MAN WITH THE WORLD AT HIS FEET... AND A TRAGIC SECRET HE CAN NEVER SHARE WHICH HAUNTS HIS SOUL!!
The End

news from the floor of 64

64, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2.

A WEEK OR SO BACK we laid on the line again the facts behind the inclusion of the Marvel comics characters in the pages of Power! At that time we should also have mentioned that *some* Marvel fans have found difficulty of late in obtaining Marvels in this country. And about *this rumour* that started going round . . . to the effect that WE POWER PEOPLE had something to do with this sudden shortage of Marvel mags. Don't ask us how or where it started, but SSSHHHEEEESSSHHH, how wrong can a rumour *be?!* We *want* the good word about Marvel to spread! If for no other reason than it will also help spread the word about the Brotherhood of Power. Anyway, we checked, but we've been totally unable to come up with a positive reason for the scarcity of Marvel. All we CAN think of is if MORE comics fans are reading Marvel then more of you who are inclined to leave their shopping too late are going to be disappointed. It's the old story of supply and demand. The best goods are the first to disappear from *any* kind of shop, because they sell out first! That's why we keep on saying that the best way of making sure you get your POWER PAPER each week is by putting in a firm order with your newsagent.

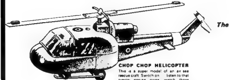
Still more or less on the same track (us and the Marvel stories) our policy of re-issuing the Marvel gems in serialised CHRONOLOGICAL form does cause some seemingly *scatty* things to happen. Because some stories were published long before others got started, we have in Power papers such eyebrow-raisers as HAWKEYE occasionally appearing in Fantastic as a VILLAIN . . while at the very same time he is appearing as a HERO (one of the new Avengers) in Terrific. Same thing is happening with the Scarlet Witch. And just the other week, in a FANTASTIC FOUR story in Wham we had a post-war, pre-Shield NICK FURY appearing without his eye patch. Reason for that was that this story was written and drawn BEFORE Fury (as Sergeant) lost his eye in World War Two, and it wasn't until later that . . . oh, let's leave it, tigers, it's TOO confusing. Anyway, that time we had Jolly Jay-Jay Jackson paint an eye patch on to Fury's classic features. Other times we *do* put footnotes into the stories . . . but, taken all round, it adds up to the price we must pay for seeing the Marvel classics in their original appearance order . . . AND THAT'S A PRETTY SMALL PRICE TO PAY, RIGHT?!

MEET TWENTY PROUD POWER-PACK PEOPLE . . .

Ian Gooding, Rotherham, Yorkshire; Geoffrey McFarlane, Plymouth, Devon; Gordon Montgomery, Belfast 15, N. Ireland; Ann Sellars, Barnsley, Yorkshire; Stephen Strigeon, Wigan, Lancs, Ross Murray, Peopleton, Worcs; Allan Young, Musselburgh, Midlothian; Malcolm Levey, Redcar, Yorks; Barbara Hogan, Walworth, London; Richard Page, Walsall, Staffs; M. Ashton, Erith, Kent; Charles Williams, Farnborough, Hants, John Williams, Barnsley, Yorks; Graham Duddle, Preston, Lancs; John McClean, Carryduff, Belfast; Mary Ann Daly, Garston Watford, Herts; Anita Griffin, Kilkenny, Eire; Paul Kearns, Great Barr, Birmingham 22; Clive Jones, Corsham, Wilts; Peter Wharfe, Oldham, Lancs.

want to be a HELICOPTER PILOT AN EXPERT MARKSMAN DOUBLE AGENT

These are the toys for you!



CHOP CHOP HELICOPTER

This is a super model of an air sea rescue craft Switch on listen to that typical engine noise watch those lighted rotors and the tail blades whirl see that engine light blinking as the copter taxis along ready for take off A top flight model aircraft this absolutely authentic in design and colour and measuring 18 from nose to tail Powered by two U 2 batteries (*not supplied*)

PRICE 48/7d.

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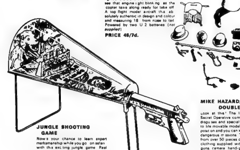
PRICE 32/11d



JUNGLE SHOOTING GAME

Now's your chance to learn expert marksmanship while you go on safari with this exciting jungle game Real 0 45 type pistol and steel pellets Aim at the knock down targets or better still, try and score a bullseye straight into the animals mouths! *This is the way to become a real crack shot!*

PRICE 28/4d.

THEY'RE SPECIAL – THEY'RE SUPER – THEY'RE MARX

SEE THEM AT YOUR TOYSTORE TODAY!

Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group 1965

WE'VE BEEN PROMISING OUR ARTIST THAT WE'D LET HIM GET A FEW OF THESE EYE-OPENING BATTLE SCENES OUT OF HIS SYSTEM, SO HERE THEY ARE! GO AHEAD, ENJOY THEM--THERE'S NO EXTRA CHARGE!

FEW SIGHTS ON ASGARD OR EARTH CAN BE AS IMPRESSIVE AS THIS BREATH-TAKING CLOSE-UP OF OMNIPOTENT ODIN AND HIS THUNDER-GOD SON FIGHTING SIDE BY SIDE AGAINST A COMMON FOE!
FOR ASGARD --AND FREEDOM!
AND NOW, ON TO THE NEXT PAGE, WHERE OUR TALE REALLY BEGINS...

WITH THE BATTLE WON, AND MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS IN EFFECT, THE VICTORIOUS ODIN TURNS TO SPEAK TO HIS SON-- TO THE WARRIOR WHO IS THE APPLE OF HIS EYE...
YOU HAVE ACQUITTED YOURSELF WITH HONOUR, MY SON! AND, OF ALL THE VIRTUES, HONOUR MOST BEFITS THE GOD OF THUNDER!
I THANK THEE, FATHER! BUT, BEING SON OF THINE, I COULD DO NO LESS!
YOU HAVE SPENT MANY LONG MONTHS ON THE PLANET EARTH, VALOROUS ONE! AND NOW, IT IS ODIN'S WISH THAT YOU RETURN TO ASGARD, TO TAKE UP YOUR PRINCELY DUTIES!
NAY, FATHER-- I CANNOT! THERE IS MUCH THAT REMAINS TO BE DONE ON THE PLANET OF MORTALS! MY MISSION IS NOT YET FINISHED!
AGAIN YOU DEFY THE WISHES OF ODIN! BUT, I SEE BEHIND YOUR ARROGANT WORDS-- IT IS THE GIRL CALLED JANE WHOM YOU DO NOT WISH TO LEAVE!
I CANNOT DENY THAT SHE HAS WON MY HEART, NOBLE FATHER! SO, UNLESS YOU GIVE ME A DIRECT ORDER TO REMAIN HERE--!
NO! I SHALL NOT HUMBLE MYSELF TO KEEP YOU HERE! RETURN TO EARTH! TURN YOUR BACK ON THE CROWN OF ASGARD! I SAY NO MORE! GO!
IN TRUTH, MY SOUL IS SAD! BUT, NEITHER MAN NOR GODLING CAN DO LESS THAN FOLLOW THE URGING OF HIS HEART!
YET, MAYHAP I AM NOT FIT FOR GODHOOD! PERHAPS THE MORE HONOURABLE COURSE WOULD BE TO RENOUNCE MY HERITAGE-- AND TO BECOME A MORTAL SO THAT I MAY MARRY THE ONE I TRULY LOVE!

SO BE IT! MY DECISION IS MADE! EVEN AN IMMORTAL CAN RENOUNCE HIS DESTINY IN THE NAME OF LOVE!
I MUST FIND JANE FOSTER AND TELL HER EVERYTHING! IF SHE IS TO SHARE MY LIFE, THEN SHE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT TO SHARE MY SECRETS!
AND, NEVER HAS A MAN CARRIED SUCH AN AWE-SOME SECRET LOCKED WITHIN HIS BREAST!
MOMENTS LATER...
DR. BLAKE! DON-- I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL AT THAT MEDICAL INSTITUTE'S MEETING!
I DECIDED TO RETURN EARLY, JANE!
IT'S WONDERFUL TO HAVE YOU BACK! I'VE MISSED YOU SO! I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT YOUR PATIENTS AND--
NO! I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU! SOMETHING THAT CAN WAIT NO LONGER! YOU MUST PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A SHOCK, MY DEAR! DO NOT INTERRUPT UNTIL I HAVE FINISHED!
WHA- WHAT IS IT, DON! I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LOOK THAT WAY BEFORE-- SO GRIM-- SO DEADLY SERIOUS! IT ALMOST FRIGHTENS ME!
YOU MUST NOT BE FRIGHTENED, MY DARLING! NO MATTER WHAT I SAY...
JUST LISTEN --AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND!
THOUGH YOU KNOW ME AS DR. DON BLAKE, I HAVE ANOTHER IDENTITY AS WELL! ONE WHICH NO OTHER EARTHLY MORTAL WOULD EVER SUSPECT! BUT NOW, MY BELOVED, I MUST TELL YOU--
--I AM THOR, SON OF ODIN, GOD OF THUNDER!

SO STARTLED IS JANE FOSTER THAT IT IS BEYOND OUR POOR MORTAL POWERS TO ADEQUATELY DESCRIBE HER SHOCK! INSTEAD, WE SHALL TEMPORARILY CHANGE OUR SCENE AND VISIT THE ARTIFACTS SECTION OF A NEARBY MUSEUM...
THIS STONE STATUE YOU FOUND MUST HAVE BEEN LYING IN THAT RIVER FOR MONTHS! BUT I'M FINALLY GETTING ALL THE MUD OFF!
IT COULD BE ONE OF THE GREAT DISCOVERIES OF OUR AGE! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT! BUT HOW DID IT GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER?
PERHAPS IT WAS CREATED BY A TRIBE OLDER THAN TIME--WHEN THE RIVER WAS NO MORE THAN A DRY ARID PLAIN! DOCTOR! AM I SEEING THINGS! I COULD HAVE SWORN I SAW ITS SHOULDER TWITCH!
IMPOSSIBLE! YOU MUST HAVE IMAGIN-- LOOK! HE IS MOVING, THE STONE IS ALIVE!
NOW I KNOW WHAT IT IS! DON'T YOU REMEMBER, MONTHS AGO...?!!
OF COURSE! THE STRANGE CREATURE CALLED THE GREY GARGOYLE!* HIS VERY TOUCH COULD TURN MEN TO-- MFFFF--!
TO STONE, GENTLEMEN! JUST AS I HAVE TURNED THE TWO OF YOU! WHAT A PITY THE SPELL ONLY LASTS A MERE SIXTY MINUTES!
* YOU MET HIM IN ISHES 31-32. REMEMBER?--BART.
THEY DESERVE BEING STONE MEN FOR AN HOUR -- THE FOOLS! IF THEY HAD NOT DUG ME UP, I WOULD HAVE REMAINED UNDERNEATH THE RIVER, WHERE THOR DEFEATED ME, FOREVER!
BUT NOW, THE GREY GARGOYLE IS FREE AGAIN! NOW I'M WISER, STRONGER THAN EVER!
SO, ONCE AGAIN I SHALL BATTLE THE THUNDER GOD, UNTIL I TOO POSSESS THE SECRET OF HIS IMMORTALITY!

AH, MY ROOM IS EXACTLY AS I HAD LEFT IT! HOW FORTUNATE THAT I PAID MY RENT FOR ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE!
AND NOW, AS THE FANTASTICALLY POWERFUL -- THE SUPREMELY SINISTER GREY GARGOYLE SITS AND PONDERS HIS NEXT MOVE, THIS IS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO REFRESH YOUR MEMORY ABOUT HIS STRANGE ORIGIN...
IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY THAT IT ALL HAPPENED--WHEN I WAS ONLY AN UNKNOWN YOUNG CHEMIST IN PARIS...
HOW MUCH LONGER MUST I TAKE ORDERS LIKE A MERE LACKEY? PAUL DUVAL IS MEANT FOR GREATER THINGS!
HMMM, SOMETHING IS WRONG! THE MIXTURE HAS TURNED BLUE INSTEAD OF RED! I MUST HAVE MADE A CARELESS MISTAKE!
I SPILLED SOME ON MY HAND!
IT'S INCREDIBLE! IT FEELS LIKE LIQUID FIRE! IT SEEMS TO HAVE A LIFE OF ITS OWN!
WHAT HAVE I DONE? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY HAND??
MY FINGERS--THEY TURNED TO STONE! IT'S THE STRANGE SUBSTANCE IN THE MIXTURE--IT GAVE THE LIQUID AN UNBELIEVABLE POWER! BUT --WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME??
OH NO NO! I TOUCHED MY HAND TO MY FACE, AND NOW—
MY FACE HAS TURNED TO STONE! EVERYTHING I TOUCH BECOMES LIVING STONE! IT--IT IS MADNESS!
BUT, I SOON LEARNED IT WAS NOT MADNESS! IT WAS A GIFT--A WONDERFUL, AWESOME GIFT! I COULD ACCOMPLISH ALMOST ANYTHING WITH MY GREAT POWER!
THUS, I SEARCHED FOR THOR-- TO LEARN HIS SECRET OF IMMORTALITY--FOR THAT IS THE ONLY THING I STILL NEED! ONCE I AM IMMORTAL, THE WORLD WILL BELONG TO THE GREY GARGOYLE!
AND NOW, BEFORE RETURNING TO DON BLAKE, LET US AGAIN VISIT ASGARD, WHERE ODIN IS IN A VIOLENT MOOD SUCH AS ONLY HE CAN ATTAIN!
GO BACK, LOKI! IT IS WORTH YOUR LIFE TO FACE ODIN WHILE HIS FURY RAGES!
YOU CALL THYSELF A CHEF?? OUT OF MY SIGHT, KNAVE! THY FOOD IS BUT FIT FOR SWINE!

SO! THERE IS THE REASON FOR ODIN'S RAGE! I THOUGHT AS MUCH!
MY OWN SON! MY FAVOURED ONE! MY RIGHTFUL HEIR! GIVING UP HIS BIRTHRIGHT FOR A MERE MORTAL FEMALE!
AND I AM POWERLESS TO STOP HIM-- FOR, NOT EVEN ODIN MAY INTERFERE IN MATTERS INVOLVING THE HEART OF ANOTHER!
IT IS UNTHINKABLE! UNFORGIVABLE! WOULD THAT THE LIFE HAD LEFT MY LIMBS ERE I HAD WITNESSED SO PERNICIOUS A SCENE!
BEGONE, LOKI! I HAVE NO PATIENCE FOR YOU THIS BLACK DAY!
FORGIVE ME, SIRE! I MERELY WISHED TO OFFER MY REGRETS-- AND TO TELL YOU THAT I STAND WITH ODIN IN THIS MOMENT OF SHAMEFUL BETRAYAL!
I NOTE AND COMMEND YOUR LOYALTY, MY SECOND SON! THOUGH THOR HAS EVER BEEN MY FAVOURED ONE MAYHAP MY JUDGEMENT WAS FALSE! I SHALL NOT FORGET YOUR PLEDGE, OH, GODLING WHO WALKS ALONE!
AS FOR THE ONE WHO HAS FORSAKEN ME, I WASH MY HANDS OF HIM! FROM THIS MOMENT HENCE, HIS POWER IS GONE! IF HE WOULD REMAIN A MORTAL, THEN SO BE IT! THERE IS NO THUNDER GOD!
THUS, THE ULTIMATE VICTOR IS LOKI-- AS I ALWAYS KNEW I WOULD BE!
AND NOW, WE RETURN TO DR. BLAKE...
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME! I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES! BUT, YOU MUST!
DOCTOR, YOU'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD! PERHAPS, IF YOU WENT HOME TO BED...
WAIT! WATCH ME! I'LL PROVE THAT I'M THE GOD OF THUNDER!
SEE? ALL I NEED DO IS STAMP MY CANE UPON THE FLOOR, AND-- WHA--? WHAT'S WRONG?
OH, DON, MY DARLING! YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO GLAMOURISE YOURSELF FOR ME! I LOVE YOU JUST AS YOU ARE! I DON'T CARE WHO THOR REALLY IS!

IT WAS AT THE OFFICE OF DR. BLAKE THAT I FIRST ENCOUNTERED THOR! I'LL FORCE THE LAME PHYSICIAN TO TELL ME WHERE TO FIND MY ENEMY NOW!
ONLY ODIN HAS THE POWER TO NULLIFY THE ENCHANTMENT OF MY CANE! IT MUST BE HIS DOING!
PLEASE, DON-- YOU MUST RID YOURSELF OF THAT OBSESSION!
BUT, BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED..
CRASH
THE GREY GARGOYLE! HE'S COME BACK!
RUN, JANE! RACE TO SAFETY, MY DARLING! I'LL TRY TO HOLD HIM OFF!
YOU ARE IN NO DANGER --UNLESS YOU REFUSE TO TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND THOR!
NO! I WON'T LEAVE YOU! I CAN'T LEAVE YOU!
JANE! YOU MUST OBEY ME! RUN TO THE LIFT -- FIND A POLICEMAN! TELL HIM WHAT'S HAPPENED AND TO SUMMON HELP FAST! I'LL DELAY THE GARGOYLE!
YOU ARE AS BRAINLESS AS YOU ARE FEEBLE, BLAKE! YOU THINK A THROWN BOOK CAN HOLD BACK THE GREY GARGOYLE ??!
SEE HOW IT TURNS TO SOLID STONE, AT THE MERE TOUCH OF MY ROCK-HARD FINGERS!
THUS, IN MY HANDS, IT BECOMES AS DEADLY AS A ROCKET-POWERED PROJECTILE!
THE LIFT IS HERE, DON! HURRY, MY DARLING! BEFORE HE TOUCHES YOU!
HE WON'T! NOT WHILE HE THINKS I'M HIS ONLY LINK TO THOR!

AND, THE LAME PHYSICIAN HAS INDEED GUESSED RIGHT! THE GREY GARGOYLE STILL HESITATES, FEARING TO STILL THE TONGUE OF THE ONE HUMAN WHO MIGHT KNOW THOR'S WHEREABOUTS! AND SO...
COME BACK! MY PATIENCE WILL NOT LAST FOREVER!
WE MADE IT! NOW, IF ONLY THE DOORS WILL CLOSE IN TIME!
AND CLOSE THEY DO! BUT, THE ROCK-HARD POWER OF THE GREY GARGOYLE CANNOT BE STOPPED BY MERE METAL DOORS...
I WARN YOU, DO YOU HEAR?? I'LL TURN YOU BOTH TO STONE BEFORE I LET YOU ESCAPE ME!
WHOOM
BY MERELY TOUCHING THE LIFT CABLES, I MAKE THEM HARD ENOUGH TO SUPPORT MY OWN PONDEROUS WEIGHT!
THERE IS NO PLACE THEY CAN FLEE WHERE I CANNOT FOLLOW!
DON, DO YOU THINK ...?
NO TIME FOR TALK, JANE! KEEP RUNNING!
HE'S SLIDING DOWN THE CABLES AFTER US! WE'RE NOT SAFE YET! WE'VE GOT TO SEPARATE!
NO! I WON'T LEAVE YOU! I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU!
WHUMP!
A SECOND LATER, A HEAVY FORM LANDS ATOP THE DESERTED LIFT --AS THE SILENT CAR INSTANTLY TURNS INTO-- STONE!
WHILE, BACK IN ASGARD, AN UNUSUAL MEETING OF THOR'S FAITHFUL FRIENDS IS TAKING PLACE...
WE ALL KNOW THAT WITHOUT HIS POWER, THE THUNDER GOD WILL BE FAIR PREY FOR ANY FOE WHO ATTACKS HIM!
IT IS INTOLERABLE! WE MUST GO TO THE AID OF OUR FELLOW IMMORTAL!
ODIN HAS NOT YET FORBIDDEN OUR INTERFERENCE! SO, LET US ACT WHILE WE MAY! ONE OF US SHALL RACE TO EARTH!
BUT CAN THEY MAKE IT? WILL LOKI DISCOVER THE PLOT TO HELP THOR? READ NEXT WEEK'S ISH AND SEE!

Dear Alf and Bart,
Out here your Power comics are fantastically popular. In addition to FANTASTIC I also read regularly POW, WHAM, SMASH and TERRIFIC. And so do many of my friends. Mind you, I don't think this letter will be printed because it is from Africa...

Salim Mitha.
Mbale, Uganda, Africa.

Welcome aboard, Salim. But what do you mean... won't print your letter because it comes from Africa? Why shouldn't we? The only place we don't print letters from is *the North Pole!* And that's only because we never GET ANY from there.
Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
I would like to point out to you that MAGNETO is *not* a mutant. He went up in a spaceship and journeyed through cosmic rays and such, and THUS got his special powers...

Mark Williams.
Porthcawl, Glamorganshire.

Hate to contradict, Mark, but the bad boy really IS a mutant. True, in The Stranger tale he *did* journey through space... but that was way way AFTER he had his special mutant powers. In fact if you hark back to ISSUE ONE and TWO of 'Fantastic' you will read that *when he made his first appearance in comics* he was even then a genuine mutant! Okay?
Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
I have just read over again FANTASTIC 32 and on the first page of the X-MEN story you show a grown man taking ICE-MAN'S pulse with his thumb! Tut-tut-tut! I would have thought that you up there in the garret would have known that a thumb has ITS OWN pulse, so if you used it to take a pulse YOU WOULD ONLY BE TAKING *YOUR OWN* PULSE BEAT!

Peter Milne.
Camberley, Surrey.

And thank you, Doc Milne! You're right, of course. Mind you we don't want to put the blame on anyone... but we're sending WERNER ROTH (the art genius behind the set) a handy 'Easy to Follow Medical Guide'. And we're keeping another copy for ourselves... just to make sure it doesn't happen again.
Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
Dropped a brick, you have! In FANTASTIC 32, in the X-MEN story, Professor X tells his men to keep their identity a secret and then he goes and calls The Beast McCoy... *right in front of the doctor.* REALLY, fellers!!

Stephen Swann.
Halifax, Yorks.

Here we go again! There's something about issue 32, isn't there! Can't think what went wrong when we were putting this issue to press. We were all HERE, slaving away as usual at our desks. So we weren't short-handed (not more than usual anyway). We had a new bulb in the lamp, so the *light* was good enough for us to SEE what we were doing! And we weren't any tireder than we always are! It beats us!
Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
NOW HEAR THIS!

'Twas X-Men and the fight they fought
Did goof and go wrong in every way
Mighty was The Juggernaut,
And Alf and Bart (who dey?)

Beware The Juggernaut, my son
The fangs that bite, the claws that catch.
DO buy the Power mags, my son.
These BRAND X cannot match.

Prof kept his mental bolt in mind
Long time the monstrous foe he'd fought.
So dazed by the tremendous bolt
Of energy, he'd caught

And as unconscious there he lay
The Juggernaut, with eyes of flame,
Came smashing through the concrete wall
And boasted as it came.

One, two! One, two! And through and through!
Iceman's blasts went drippity-dreg!
The Beast jumped under table
And Angel layed an egg.

"Hast thou slain The Juggernaut?"
"No, Prof... he left us all for dead!
We'll try again in next week's ish!"
And Big Bart quipped: "Nuff said!!"

Michael Whiting.
Saltney Ferry, Near Chester.

If we dished out a Power Pals Poetry Prize you'd get it, Michael. And that's for sure! By the way, did you ever read "Jabberwocky"? And I wonder what made us think of THAT?!
Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
I have read all my back issues of FANTASTIC, but I cannot remember anything about Kraven the Hunter, who is depicted on the back cover of ish 32. Please could you tell me whether he is a "goodie" or a "baddie". If he IS a villain who did he battle against and in which issue was it?...

Stuart Tamblin.
Kettering, Northants.

You can't remember Kraven appearing in FANTASTIC, Stuart, because he hasn't (yet) *starred* in the paper. But he DOES make the *briefest* appearance in Fantastic 33. We put him on the back of Fantastic because he IS a Power Pack *villain* (and we thought you and other Fantastic readers would like to know what's going on in the other Power comics). Kraven the Hunter is usually POW-based, where he is inclined to add to the troubles of SPIDERMAN.
Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
When Don Blake stamps his cane in his office (which he does quite often) why doesn't JANE, who is next door, hear him? This has puzzled me for a long time....

Toto Thiodosion.
E Finchley, London.

Now that you have mentioned it, Toto, we have the feeling it's going to puzzle US for a long time, too. It's frankly something we never thought about. So sorry, chum, YOU TELL US!
Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
If all Gods are immortal where is Odin's father ?

Michael Norris.
Meadows, Nottingham.

And here's *another* one! HELP somebody! We're stuck for an answer... ARE YOU, FRANTIC ONES?!
Alf and Bart.

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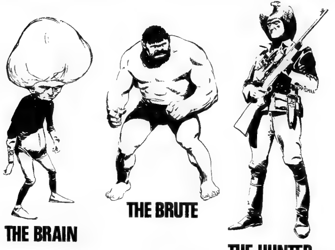
Johnny Future

LAST WEEK WE SAW JOHNNY WRAP UP MR OPPOSITE! NOW START THIS GREAT NEW ADVENTURE AS JOHNNY MEETS...



HERE WE SEE HIS MENTAL ABILITIES BEING MATCHED AGAINST A COMPLEX COMPUTER IN A SERIES OF TESTS POSED BY A PANEL OF EMINENT PROFESSORS!
EVEN THE MOST INTRICATE CALCULATIONS ARE MADE IMMEDIATELY BY FUTURE – BUT AS THE PROBLEMS ARE MADE MORE DIFFICULT IT IS THE COMPUTER WHICH SHOWS SIGNS OF STRESS!
UNTIL IT FINALLY DISINTEGRATES!
WHO IS JOHNNY FUTURE
DESPITE THE REMARKABLE ATTRIBUTES OF THIS MAN DESPITE THE NATION-WIDE PUBLICITY HIS FEATS HAVE BEEN GIVEN, NO-ONE KNOWS WHO JOHNNY FUTURE IS OR FROM WHENCE HE COMES!
THIS THEN IS JOHNNY FUTURE – THE MAN WHO HAS TWICE THWARTED THE PLANS OF THE S.S.S.!
AND FOR THE TASK OF DESTROYING HIM I HAVE SELECTED YOU...
YOU, THE BRAIN! WITH YOUR VAST MENTAL CAPACITY TO OUT-THINK OUR ENEMY!

YOU THE BRUTE! SCOURED THE WORLD TO FIND ONE SUCH AS YOU — A FREAK OF NATURE — AN ALMOST BRAINLESS MASS OF RAW MUSCULAR STRENGTH! YOU ARE TO OUT-MATCH FUTURE IN PHYSICAL COMBAT
AND YOU THE HUNTER! YOU WHO HAVE PLUNDERED THE WORLD WITH MORE CUNNING THAN THE BEASTS OF PREY WHO ACKNOWLEDGE YOU AS THEIR LORD. SEEK OUT JOHNNY FUTURE ..
AND LURE HIM TO THE PLACE OF HIS DESTRUCTION
NOW GO, ALL OF YOU; REMEMBER! I AM THE MASTER! I DO NOT TOLERATE FAILURE! JOHNNY FUTURE MUST DIE!
WE MOVE NOW TO THE HARWOOD ELECTRONICS BUILDING IN LONDON WHERE RICK HARWOOD BIDS GOODNIGHT TO HIS FRIEND JOHN FOSTER THE CARETAKER OF THE BUILDING.
SEE YOU TOMORROW JOHN!
GOODNIGHT RICK
AS RICK REACHES THE STREET
A HAWK OVER LONDON? NO!!
TELL YOU I KNOW A HAWK WHEN I SEE ONE! THAT'S A HAWK—AND A BIG ONE TOO!
THEN... SUDDEN TERROR SEIZES THE KNOT OF PEOPLE!
A-AAH! NO! NO!
PINIONS OUTSTRETCHED, HOOKED TALONS EAGER TO STRIKE, AND CRUEL BEAK SEEKING A VICTIM THERE COMES SWOOPING FROM THE SKY A MONSTROUS HAWK WITH A WING-SPREAD THAT ALL BUT SPANS THE PANIC-FILLED LONDON STREET!
JOHNNY AND THE HAWK—LOCKED IN COMBAT! DON'T MISS NEXT WEEK'S GRIPPING INSTALMENT

John learns the hard way
JOHN AND HIS YOUNG BROTHER GRAHAM WERE KEEN ROCK SCRAMBLERS. BUT THERE WAS HIDDEN DANGER IN THEIR HOBBY.
GRAHAM!
IT'S MY LEG. I FELT IT CRACK...
I CAN'T CARRY YOU ALL THE WAY DOWN. I'LL HAVE TO GET HELP. DON'T WORRY—I'LL BE BACK BEFORE DARK...
BUT ON THE STIFF CLIMB DOWN.
IT'S NO USE — I'M OUT OF BREATH. I'LL HAVE TO REST A BIT...
SO IT WAS SUNSET BEFORE JOHN REACHED HELP.
IT'LL TAKE US AN HOUR TO GET UP THERE. THINK YOU CAN FIND YOUR BROTHER IN THE DARK?
I'LL TRY...
BUT PRECIOUS TIME WAS LOST IN THE SEARCH
HERE HE IS — OVER HERE HE'S FAINTED. LOOKS IN A BAD WAY
AND IF I HADN'T BEEN WINDED WE WOULD HAVE GOT TO HIM A LOT SOONER..
BUT GRAHAM'S LEG MENDED. AND NEXT SEASON, THE BROTHERS GRADUATED TO MORE DIFFICULT CLIMBS.
GEE. GRAHAM, YOUR BROTHER CERTAINLY TAKES THESE TRICKY BITS AT SPEED!
JOHN KEEPS HIMSELF FIT. GAVE UP SMOKING LAST YEAR.
UP YOU COME, YOU OLD PUFFING BILLY. YOU'LL HAVE TO PACK IN CIGARETTES IF YOU WANT TO KEEP UP WITH GRAHAM AND ME.
I HAD TO LEARN THE HARD WAY. CIGARETTES CAN AFFECT YOUR HEALTH.
IT JUST ISN'T SMART TO SMOKE 'EM!

X-MEN! THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME!
"I, LUCIFER..."
SO! THE DIE IS CAST! UNUS AND THE BLOB HAVE UNWITTINGLY DONE MY BIDDING--AND A FOOLISH WORLD BELIEVES THEY ARE RENEGADE X-MEN, MERELY SEEKING WORLDLY TREASURE!
LITTLE DOES ANYONE-- EVEN MY TWO MASQUERADING MINIONS--REALIZE THAT I, LUCIFER, HAVE IN MIND A PURPOSE FAR MORE COMPLEX, FAR MORE SINISTER!
THE PLOT THICKENS, FANS--IT IS LUCIFER WHO HAS INSPIRED THE BLOB AND UNUS THE UNTOUCHABLE, DISGUISED AS X-MEN, TO ROB A BANK! THE X-MEN RUSH TO DEFEND THEIR REPUTATION, AND THE BLOB AND UNUS ARE SENT FOR A TRAIN RIDE. BUT IT IS PROFESSOR X WHOM LUCIFER MOST WISHES TO LOCATE--AND HE DOES IT IN HIS OWN CUNNING WAY...
CYKE! TALK ABOUT SIGHTS FOR SORE EYES! YOU SHOWED UP JUST IN TIME!
SO I SEE! BUT-- WE CAN TALK LATER!
LOOK! ONE OF THEM BLASTED A HOLE RIGHT THROUGH THE PAVEMENT--AND TWO OTHERS FELL INTO IT!
RIGHT NOW, WE'D BETTER SPLIT! THAT CROWD'S STILL ANGRY!
WITH YOUR USUAL PERSPICACITY, CYCLOPS, YOU'VE PROPERLY EVALUATED THE SITUATION! LET'S DEPART, INDEED!
THUNK!
WE LANDED ON A TUBE TRAIN!
I'VE BEEN RIDDEN OUTTA TOWN ON A RAIL BEFORE, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
SHUDDUP AND KEEP YER HEAD DOWN! WE'LL BE BACK!
Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group 1966
AH! MY MENTO-WAVE RECEIVER INDICATES THAT PROFESSOR XAVIER HAS ALREADY PENETRATED MY MENTAL SCREEN!
HE CANNOT SUSPECT THAT I DESIRED HIM TO FIND ME--THAT, IN LOCATING ME, HE HAS NOW SEALED HIS OWN DOOM!

AT THAT SELFSAME INSTANT, MANY MILES AWAY...
WITH THIS DEVICE, I HAVE MENTALLY PIN-POINTED OUR HIDDEN ANTAGONIST!
SO--IT IS ME! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!
PROFESSOR--WHO IS IT? CAN YOU TELL ME?
SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING, BEFORE THE MUTANT LEADER CAN ANSWER THE ANXIOUS MARVEL GIRL...
HE'S ATTACKING ME--THROUGH MY OWN MIND! NO TIME TO PREPARE A DEFENCE!
MY BRAIN--IT'S ON FIRE!
THEN--SILENCE!
PROFESSOR--WHAT'S HAPPENED?
BUT NO! HE CAN'T BE DEAD! HE JUST CAN'T BE--!
HE'S...SO RIGID, SO UNMOVING! IT'S ALMOST AS IF--
I MUST CHECK--TO SEE IF HIS HEART STILL BEATS!
THANK HEAVEN--HE'S ALIVE! AND YET, HIS HEARTBEAT IS SO SLOW--HE MUST BE CONTINUING TO BREATHE BY SHEER MENTAL EFFORT! BUT--HE CANNOT MOVE!
THAT IS...CORRECT, JEAN! YOU MUST USE MENTAL-WAVE AMPLIFIER--AT ONCE!
IN MY MIND--I CAN READ HIS THOUGHTS! BUT, THEY'RE FAINT--DISTANT!
COMPLYING WITH PROFESSOR X'S URGENT COMMAND, JEAN ABRUPTLY DISCOVERS...
WHY--NOW YOUR THOUGHTS ARE COMING THROUGH MORE CLEARLY!
GOOD! THEN HEED MY WORDS--FOR I MAY HAVE LITTLE TIME!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR PLIGHT?
THIS IS THE WORK OF ONE WHOSE POWERS AND PURPOSE STAGGER THE MORTAL IMAGINATION--OF THE ONE I KNOW ONLY BY HIS EARTHLY NAME OF...LUCIFER!
LUCIFER! THEN--HE HAS RETURNED!
YES--SO LISTEN CLOSELY TO THE TALE OF MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH HIM! LISTEN, FOR, THE FATE OF ALL HUMANITY HANGS IN THE BALANCE!

"SOME YEARS AGO, FASCINATED BY TALES I HAD HEARD OF A MYSTERIOUS WALLED CITY IN THE SHADOW OF THE HIMALAYAS, I JOURNEYED THROUGH THE RUGGED TERRAIN OF TIBET..."
THIS IS MY DESTINATION! I SEEM TO SENSE SOME OMINOUS, UNSEEN MENACE WHICH LIES WITHIN--!
IT'S AS THOUGH MY ENTIRE LIFE, MY ULTIMATE DESTINY, WERE SOMEHOW BOUND UP BEHIND THOSE GRIM, GREY WALLS!
"AT THE GATE, MY SUSPICIONS WERE CONFIRMED..."
IT IS FORBIDDEN THAT ANY OUTSIDER MAY PASS THIS GATE! YET--I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD BE ALLOWED ADMITTANCE!
THANK YOU! MY MISSION IS ONE OF PEACE, I ASSURE YOU!
THESE TWO ARE UNDER THE MENTAL DOMINATION OF ANOTHER'S BRAIN! I CAN FEEL IT!
"INSIDE THE CITY, I WAS AWARE OF SINISTER EYES FOCUSED UPON ME..."
THE THOUGHT-WAVES OF THESE PEOPLE--THEY INDICATE ABJECT FEAR OF THE TYRANT WHO RULES THEM!
COME! IS THERE ONE WHO WOULD SPEAK TO A WAYFARER IN A STRANGE LAND?
SO! A VISITOR HAS COME! HE WILL BEAR CLOSE WATCHING!
I WILL SPEAK TO YOU, MY SON! WHAT DO YOU WISH TO KNOW?
I AM INTRIGUED BY YOUR GREAT WALLED CITY, AND I WISH AN AUDIENCE WITH ITS RULER!
NAY, BUT THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE! FOR, OUR MASTER DWELLS WITHIN YONDER CITADEL--AND EVEN WE ARE NEVER PERMITTED TO GAZE UPON HIM!
I CAN TELL HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH!
HOW LONG HAS THIS MAN BEEN YOUR OVERLORD?
I--I DO NOT KNOW, MY SON! IT IS AS IF--TIME HAS CEASED TO EXIST FOR US--SINCE HIS COMING!
NOW, I MUST GO! I CAN SAY NO MORE!
AMAZING! MY SILENT PROBING REVEALS HIGHLY-COMPLICATED MACHINERY INSIDE THE TYRANT'S DOMICILE!
BUT HOW--AND WHY??
I MUST PROBE FURTHER--LAY BARE THE SECRETS OF THESE DEVICES!
"EXERCISING MY MENTAL POWERS TO THE FULLEST EXTENT, I MADE AN INCREDIBLE DISCOVERY..."
THESE, THEN, ARE THE SOURCE OF THE TYRANT'S POWER!
BUT, THEY ARE MADE OF METALS NOT FOUND ON EARTH! THE ONE WHO HOLDS THIS CITY IN HIS SWAY--IS FROM ANOTHER WORLD!

EVIDENTLY, THE MACHINES ENABLE THE ALIEN TO CONTROL SELECTED MINDS AMONG THE POPULACE--AND THESE, IN TURN, KEEP THE OTHER CITIZENS IN LINE!
OBVIOUSLY, THERE IS MUCH MORE TO THIS SITUATION THAN THE MERE ENSLAVEMENT OF ONE LONE VILLAGE!
"HASTILY LOCATING SOME OF THE MORE REBELLIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE AREA, I OUTLINED A PLAN TO THEM..."
...THEN, I CAN RENDER YOUR NAMELESS MASTER HELPLESS--IF YOU WILL HELP ME STORM HIS PALACE!
THAT FOREIGN DEVIL MUST NOT LEAVE THIS DWELLING ALIVE!
AY, THAT WILL WE DO! WE HAVE LONG AWAITED A LEADER IN OUR STRUGGLE AGAINST THAT UNSEEN FIEND!
"BUT, I HAD UNDERESTIMATED THE TRUE CUNNING AND POWER OF MY RELENTLESS, VIGILANT FOE..."
"FOR, EVEN AFTER I HAD MENTALLY SCREENED MY COMRADES, HE TOOK CONTROL OF THE BRAIN OF ONE OF THEM, AND SO..."
BY MEANS YOU WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND, I HAVE LOCATED A TUNNEL INTO THE CASTLE! ONCE INSIDE, WE WILL OVERTHROW ANY GUARDS --AND YOUR ANCIENT HOMELAND WILL BE FREE AGAIN!
FREE! DARE WE HOPE FOR SUCH A THING?
LONG AGO, WE WERE OUR OWN MASTERS! CAN SUCH A DAY DAWN ONCE MORE?
IT CAN--IF YOU ACT SWIFTLY!
NOW--I STRIKE! DEATH TO ALL WHO WOULD REBEL!
"THE NEXT INSTANT..."
LOOK OUT! THAT CHANDELIER--IT'S FALLING--!
LUCKILY, MY MUTANT BRAIN SENSED TREACHERY FROM SOMEONE IN THE ROOM--NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON!
HOLD! WHAT TRAITOR'S DEED IS THIS?
THE MASTER--HE KNOWS OF OUR PLOT AGAINST HIM!
BY THE ETERNAL--!

I HAVE THE VILLAIN! HE SHALL MENACE US NO MORE!
UHHNN--!
THE TYRANT MUST BE AWARE OF OUR PLANS! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO ACT--NOW!
WE SHALL FOLLOW WHERE YOU LEAD, OUTSIDER!
THEN COME--SWIFTLY! EVEN NOW, HE MAY BE PREPARING HIS DEFENCES!
"AS WE APPROACHED THE TUNNEL..."
THE FOOLS! DID THEY THINK ME IGNORANT OF THAT CORRIDOR BENEATH THIS ANCIENT CITADEL?
THE MEREST FLICK OF A SWITCH--AND IT SHALL BECOME THEIR TOMB!
THAT RUMBLING--! THE WALLS THEMSELVES ARE CLOSING IN ON US!
NOTHING CAN STOP THEM! WE FOLLOWED THE STRANGER--TO OUR DOOM!
NO--DON'T GIVE UP! KEEP STRUGGLING--THERE IS STILL A WAY--!
RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
I MUST HOPE AND PRAY THAT MY MUTANT BRAIN CAN LOCATE THE MACHINERY WHICH MOVES THESE WALLS WITHIN MOMENTS!
"FORTUNATELY, THE FATES WERE WITH ME--AND, FIFTEEN ANXIOUS SECONDS LATER..."
I'VE FOUND IT! ALREADY, AS I RIP THESE ESSENTIAL WIRES, THE WALLS BEGIN TO OPEN AGAIN!
BUT--WAIT! THAT HISSING SOUND BEHIND ME--!
A BALL OF FIRE--RUSHING TOWARDS US THROUGH THE TUNNEL! NO PLACE TO RUN--!
YET, THERE IS STILL A CHANCE!

WHILE PROBING THIS CHAMBER A MINUTE AGO, I DETECTED A HATCH, PLACED--HERE!
THE TOWNSPEOPLE ARE MOMENTARILY ENGULFED --BUT THE FIREBALL IS EXTINGUISHED!
SWOOSH!
OUR FOE HAS FAILED AGAIN!
"AND, INDEED, JUST A SHORT TIME LATER..."
I CUT OFF THE SUPPLY OF WATER--AND THE FLOOD DRAINED AWAY IMMEDIATELY!
AND NOW--THE HOUR IS AT HAND! WE HAVE REACHED THE CASTLE OF THE TYRANT!
AT THIS DISTANCE, I CAN USE MY OWN MIND TO PROTECT THEIRS FROM THE ENEMY'S INFLUENCE!
LONG SHALL THIS DAY LIVE IN OUR MEMORIES!
"WHILE, IN ANOTHER SUBTERRANEAN SECTION OF THE PALACE..."
BEEP BEEP
THE INTRUDER IS A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT! STILL, HE IS FORE-DOOMED TO FAILURE WHEN MATCHED AGAINST MY SUPERIOR MIGHT! NOW TO--
BUT WAIT --THERE IS THE SIGNAL OF... THE SUPREME ONE!
AGENT ONE--OUR RELAY SYSTEMS RECORD THAT PART OF OUR EQUIPMENT ON EARTH IS DESTROYED! WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
AN UPRISING AMONG THE EARTHLINGS, SUPREME ONE! IT SHALL BE CRUSHED!
NO! TAKE NO RISKS WHICH MIGHT PROVE FATAL TO OUR CAUSE!
YOU HAVE SPENT ENOUGH TIME IN SECTOR "A"! A NEW SANCTUARY HAS BEEN READIED IN SECTOR "B"! PROCEED THERE AT ONCE!
I HEAR--AND OBEY, SUPREME ONE!
I SHALL LET THESE INSIGNIFICANT BEINGS OVERRUN THE CASTLE! BUT, THE FINAL VICTORY SHALL BE OURS!
"MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY, I HAD PARTED FROM THE MAIN ATTACK FORCE..."
THE PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN THE PALACE--BUT THEIR FORMER TYRANT STILL ELUDES THEM!
IT IS FOR THE BEST! THEY COULD NEVER FATHOM THE TRUE NATURE OF ONE SO POWERFUL--AND ALIEN!
STILL, I MUST FIND HIM--CONFRONT HIM! FOR, I FEEL ALL LIFE ON EARTH MAY BE AT STAKE!

"THEN, ROUNDING A CORNER..."
SO! IT IS YOU WHO HAVE TYRANNIZED THIS CITY! WHO ARE YOU--AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
MY TRUE PURPOSE YOU SHALL NEVER KNOW - BUT, ON THIS PLANET I CALL MYSELF ...LUCIFER!
AND NOW--THAT NAME SHALL BE THE FINAL THING YOU HEAR! PREPARE TO DIE--FOR DARING TO OPPOSE THAT WHICH NO MORTAL CAN COMPREHEND!
THAT GREAT SLAB--- RELEASED FROM ABOVE AT THE TOUCH OF A SWITCH! I-- CAN'T DODGE --IN TIME!
"PINNED BENEATH THE INEXORABLE WEIGHT OF THE MASSIVE SLAB, I HEARD MY TORMENTOR'S VOICE THROUGH A MIST WHICH SEEMED TO BE ENVELOPING MY BRAIN..."
OHHHH..!
SO--YOU STILL SURVIVE! LIVE, THEN-- PERHAPS IT IS FATED THAT YOU AND I MEET AGAIN ONE DAY!
"BEFORE MY EYES, A MOMENT BEFORE I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS, LUCIFER DISAPPEARED--INTO THE VERY WALL ITSELF..."
BUT, REMEMBER THIS--IT IS EVER THE STRONG WHO ARE MEANT TO RULE! AND WE ARE THE STRONG!
WHO DOES HE MEAN BY "WE"? IS HE ACTUALLY THE HERALD OF A FAR GREATER MENACE--FROM THE STARS?
THEN, AS THE PARALYZED MENTAL MUTANT CONCLUDES HIS STARTLING NARRATION...
THEN--THAT IS HOW YOU LOST THE USE OF YOUR LEGS YEARS AGO!
YES, JEAN! AND, IT IS YET ANOTHER REASON WHY I FOUNDED THE X-MEN!
FOR, I KNEW THAT ONE DAY MANKIND WOULD HAVE TO MEET THE RENEWED THREAT OF LUCIFER!
BUT, EVEN XAVIER DOES NOT FULLY REALIZE JUST HOW URGENT MANKIND'S PLIGHT TRULY IS! FOR, AT THIS VERY SECOND, IN HIS UNDERGROUND DESERT HIDEOUT...
IT IS DONE! I HAVE CONQUERED THE ONE EARTHLY MIND WHICH MIGHT HAVE DISCOVERED MY INTENTIONS IN TIME TO THWART THEM!
AND NOW, THE TIME DRAWS NEAR, WHEN MY RACE SHALL FULFILL ITS MISSION--- ITS MAGNIFICENT DESTINY!

IN ASIA, I MANAGED TO EXTEND MY SWAY OVER AN ENTIRE CITY, AT CLOSE RANGE! BUT, MY EXPERIMENT WITH UNUS AND THE BLOB PROVES THAT LONGER DISTANCES ARE NOW POSSIBLE!
SOON, NO NATION SHALL ESCAPE THE TENTACLES OF OUR POWER! MANKIND SHALL EXIST ONLY TO SERVE US!
ALL IS IN READINESS! ONLY ONE STEP REMAINS --BUT THAT IS THE GREATEST ONE OF ALL!
AND SO...
SUPREME ONE, AFTER YEARS OF OBSERVATION, OF EXPERIMENTATION, AND OF WATCHFUL WAITING--I CAN ANNOUNCE THAT--THE TIME HAS COME FOR ...DOMINUS!
AT LAST! OUR RACE HAS WAITED LONG TO POSSESS THIS INCONSEQUENTIAL WORLD--FOR IT SHALL BE A STEPPING STONE TO GALAXIES AND UNIVERSES WHICH CAN EASILY DWARF THE PALTRY EARTH!
THEREFORE, LET THE HUMANS AWAIT... THE COMING OF DOMINUS!
MEANWHILE, UNAWARE OF THE EARTH-SHATTERING EVENTS WHICH HAVE TRANSPIRED SINCE THEY LEFT WESTCHESTER, THE FUGITIVE X-MEN PREPARE TO RETURN TO THEIR UNIQUE SCHOOL...
IT'S SAFE TO VENTURE OUT NOW! IF NO ONE SEES MY WHITE WINGS, THE REST OF YOU ARE IN THE CLEAR!
BOY! I THOUGHT IT WAS NEVER GOING TO GET DARK!
DON'T RELAX YOUR VIGILANCE, BOBBY!
UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, CYCLOPS, THAT SEEMS A MOST SUPERFLUOUS PIECE OF ADVICE!
MAKING THEIR WAY BACK, THE FOUR MUTANTS DISCOVER...
MARVEL GIRL! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PROFESSOR?
SCOTT, YOU'VE RETURNED! BUT, TOO LATE! HE WAS PARALYZED...BY LUCIFER!
LUCIFER? HE'S RETURNED?!!
WHAT ABOUT THE PROF? WILL HE PULL THROUGH?
I...HOPE SO! HE'S GIVING ME DIRECTIONS FOR A BEAM DISTORTER-- FOR THE BEAST TO BUILD!
THEN START RELAYING, GIRL! AND DON'T STOP TO BREATHE!

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